Sick NTC Mills

104. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a strategy is being worked out for the turn around of 119 sick mills of the National Textiles Corporation;

(b) if so, the broad details of the strategy, including the time-frame fixed, if any;

(c) whether suitable steps have been initiated to safeguard the interest of the workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable mills of NTC, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of these mills turning positive, within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

Payment of cotton dues by NTC

105. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the National Textile Corporation has to pay to Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Federation a sum of Rs. 174.19 crores or so towards payment of price of cotton purchased from the Federation by NTC;

(b) the period for which this payment is outstanding;

(c) the reasons for delay in payment; and

(d) by when NTC would pay these dues?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 136.72 crores is outstanding towards cotton dues to Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Federation as on 31.3.1998. This amount is outstanding from 1—6 years depending upon the financial constraints being faced by each mill.

(c) and (d) Cotton is purchased by the NTC on credit terms. Therefore, certain outstanding dues remain to be paid at any given point of time. Due to acute shortage of working capital and losses suffered by NTC, the payment of cotton dues to the Federation has fallen into arrears. NTC is expected to clear the outstanding dues on availability of funds after the rehabilitation package is put into operation as per BIFR approval. The cases of 8 out of 9 NTC subsidiaries are presently under reference to the BIFR.

Additional Quota of Cotton for Export by Maharashtra

106. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a request from the Maharashtra Government in September, 1997 to sanction additional quota of 2 lakh bales of cotton for export;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the reasons for delay in sanctioning this quota; and

(d) by when the quota would be released?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) An export quota of 0.75 lakh bales of cotton was released to the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers' Marketing Federation Ltd. on 19th September, 1997. The export quota of cotton is released by the Government from time to time after taking into account all relevant factors, including estimated production availability, domestic demand and likely surplus of cotton as well as price trends etc. As on 21.5.1998